

**Board of Selectmen  
Board of Finance  
Water Pollution Control Authority  
Town of East Windsor  
11 Rye Street  
East Windsor, CT**

**MINUTES OF JOINT SPECIAL MEETING,  
February 7, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.**

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

**Board of Selectmen**

Members Present: Denise Menard, Alan Baker, Dale Nelson, Richard P. Pippin, Jr.,  
and James C. Richards  
Members Absent: None

**Board of Finance**

Members Present: Jason Bowsza, Joseph Pellegrini, Marie DeSousa  
(arrived at 6:08p.m.), Kathleen Pippin, Jerilyn Corso, and  
Paulette Broder (Alternate)  
Members Absent: Danelle Godeck and Jamie Daniel (Alternate)

**WPCA**

Members Present: Paul Anderson, Thomas Davis, D. James Barton, David Tyler and  
Charles Riggott (Alternate)  
Members Absent: Richard P. Pippin, III, and Martha Paluch (Alternate)  
  
Others: Catherine Cabral, E. Arthur Enderle, III, Edward Alibozek, Carol  
Madore, and others  
Press: L. Smith (Patch.com) and C. Garfman (Journal Inquirer)

First Selectwoman Denise Menard called the Special Joint Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., in the East Windsor Town Hall.

Ms. Menard thanked all who were in attendance. She gave copies of the Minutes of last Joint Meeting to anyone who did not receive a copy. As stated in the notice of this meeting, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the relationship and responsibility between the Town and WPCA. She thanked Mr. Edward Alibozek for the tour of the WPCA plant recently. It was very informative.

Ms. Menard indicated she would like to open up the discussion where it continued from the last meeting on January 17, 2012. Mr. Paul Anderson, Chairman of the WPCA gave to everyone a document dated February 7, 2012. The document was addressed to the

Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance and it read as follows:

“As Chairman of the EW-WPCA, I would like to present the position of the WPCA on the subject of the relationship responsibility of the Town and the Water Pollution Control Authority.

1. The Town of East Windsor owns the Water Pollution Control Facility and all the assets managed by the WPCA.
2. The Town of East Windsor is responsible for capital improvements and repairs. The WPCA is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the facility.
3. The Town of East Windsor is responsible for all extensions to the sewer systems and infrastructure.”

Mr. Anderson indicated that basically the Town of East Windsor owns the WPCA facility and all the assets of the WPCA, responsible for the capital improvements, and responsible for all extensions to the sewer systems and infrastructure. Ms. Menard indicated if this was voted upon by the WPCA. Mr. Anderson indicated it was the general consensus, it was not voted upon. Ms. Menard indicated she has a copy of the Assessor’s card for the WPCA properties and it lists the Town of East Windsor as the owner of 192 South Water Street. Ms. Carol Madore, Town Assessor, was at the meeting to answer any questions that may arise from the Assessor’s card. Ms. Menard inquired about the operations of the facility. Mr. Anderson indicated the WPCA is responsible for the operation of the facility. Mr. Anderson indicated the WPCA budget is approximately \$1.2 million dollars and usually there is approximately \$30,000 to \$60,000 for operations.

Ms. Marie DeSousa entered the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Ms. Menard indicated she was a little confused. She thought that the WPCA was self-sufficient. Mr. Anderson indicated the only way it could have if a revenue stream was created. The WPCA cannot rely on FCC fees because once the building stops, those fees disappear. The sewers benefit the entire Town, not just the people who are hooked up to the sewers. Sewers increase the tax base. Mr. Pippin questioned how those sewers benefit all, because the people who are still on septic systems do not benefit. Mr. Anderson disagreed. He remarked sewers benefits everyone because businesses need sewers to develop in the Town and when businesses develop in Town, the tax base increases. Mr. Baker inquired if the WPCA does not want to change the way the current responsibilities are structured. He believes this is a different stance than what was discussed at the last meeting.

Mr. Richards inquired about the roof repairs and who paid for those repairs. Ms. Menard indicated that CIP paid for those repairs. It was asked if the \$30,000-\$60,000 extra funds from the WPCA budget was put back to the general fund. It was indicated that it does not. Ms. Jerilyn Corso commented that she would like more research as to what other surrounding towns handle their fees and facilities, so they could compare. Mr. Pippin wanted a definition of the "repairs" as noted in No. 2 of their statement. Mr. Anderson indicated that WPCA uses the CIP money to pay for equipment which is in need of repair. However, for major repairs such as pump stations, the WPCA does not have an income stream to support such major repairs. A lengthy discussion was held regarding what is considered a CIP project and what was considered a WPCA maintenance projects.

Ms. Menard asked what happens to the FCC (Facility Connection Charges) revenue and what is it used for. Mr. Barton reminded Ms. Menard those fees are being collected, however, they will not be collecting those fees forever. Mr. Anderson remarked some of those fees were used to replace a pump station approximately \$400,000. Ms. DeSousa indicated that at the last meeting Mr. Alibozek indicated he would research the minutes to find out what has happened in the past. Mr. Alibozek commented that he has received the copies of the minutes from those previous meetings dating back to April 26, 1995 of how the charges came about and how they would be implemented. Mr. Alibozek gave copies of the excerpts from the minutes to all in attendance. It indicates that the FCC charges are not voted on in a Town Meeting or Referendum but are established by the WPCA. Mr. Anderson reminded that this is controlled by State Statute.

The discussion continued about CIP projects and what projects are being submitted to the CIP Committee. Mr. Anderson indicated the roof project is mandated by the DEEP and that project will be submitted to CIP. Ms. Menard indicated that the Town has received over \$4 million dollars in CIP requests; however, the budget may only be \$350,000 or smaller. If the repair is DEEP mandated, as Art says, his license is on the line. CIP does recognize the importance but what is more important, new fire trucks or fire apparatus or school needs. It is the thought that CIP should not be in so much control of plant operations in the long term. Ms. Menard indicated two years ago, the economy turned downward and requests of \$50,000 were split over two years. Presently, plans for CIP projects are five or ten year plans. Mr. Bowsza indicated the CIP is trying to get a percentage of the entire budget; however, when the budget fails at referendum, the CIP budget is cut. The entire CIP budget which includes vehicles for police, school floor maintenance, senior center projects, and other projects all have to come from that budget line.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding raising sewer usage fees, how the sewers benefit the town, benefit assessment charges, and which entity changes the formula for charging sewer charges.

The sinking fund was brought up. It was asked if the excess money of \$30,000-\$60,000 is deposited into a sinking fund. Mr. Anderson reiterated that the sewer charges are used for the operational budget. Mr. Art Enderle gave his prospective and understanding of how the sewer charges are to be used. He indicated that the statutes define the sewer user fee monies are to be used only for operation and maintenance, and it is not to be used for major repairs. The FCC revenue is to be used for infrastructure or major equipment repair, not to offset the operational and maintenance budget. He reminded everyone that the FCC revenue will eventually stop. He referred to Mr. Dennis Greci who was here at the last joint meeting, who recommends the operational budget carry 5% of its' budget or \$60,000 to \$120,000 in a new line and place it into a sinking fund. What concerns Mr. Enderle is that there is not a pool of money saved for any emergency. Again, there is never enough of a cushion for emergencies, such as pump stations replacements in the amount of \$800,000. Ms. Menard began discussing the possibilities of bonding for such major projects since the Town's debt is much lower and interest rates are very good at the present moment. Mr. Pellegrini remarked that he is a member of the CIP Committee and it is very frustrating having to underfund projects or not fund projects at all. It was suggested to begin the sinking fund again and WPCA would place \$5,000 and the Town would match the contribution. Mr. Enderle indicated that the WPCA has been told by the DEEP not to continue this practice. Mr. Bowsza suggested creating a contingency line wherein the WPCA could match the contribution. Ms. Cabral explained those line items would have to come from the general fund. The FCC revenue can be used for infrastructure repairs and capital improvements within the WPCA.

Ms. Menard brought up the concerns about the pump stations and the mandated roof repairs. She again suggested bonding for such projects. Mr. Bowsza discussed the importance of the match of funds from WPCA. Mr. Enderle indicated he would work with Ms. Cabral regarding the WPCA finances and the balance of the FCC revenue. Again, he cannot predict the FCC revenue because it can fluctuate with the economy. Ms. Cabral indicated she could get the data as her office receives this information on a monthly basis.

A brief discussion was held. It was ultimately decided that they would have all the information available for everyone before the next Board of Selectmen Meeting on February 21, 2012 and it would be placed on the agenda for that meeting to discuss the next steps and another joint meeting will be scheduled as early as it can be considering all of the budget workshop meetings which have been scheduled.

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The meeting ended at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz  
Recording Secretary